

Markscheme

May 2024

Physics

Standard level

Paper 3

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Subject Details: Physics SL Paper 3 Markscheme

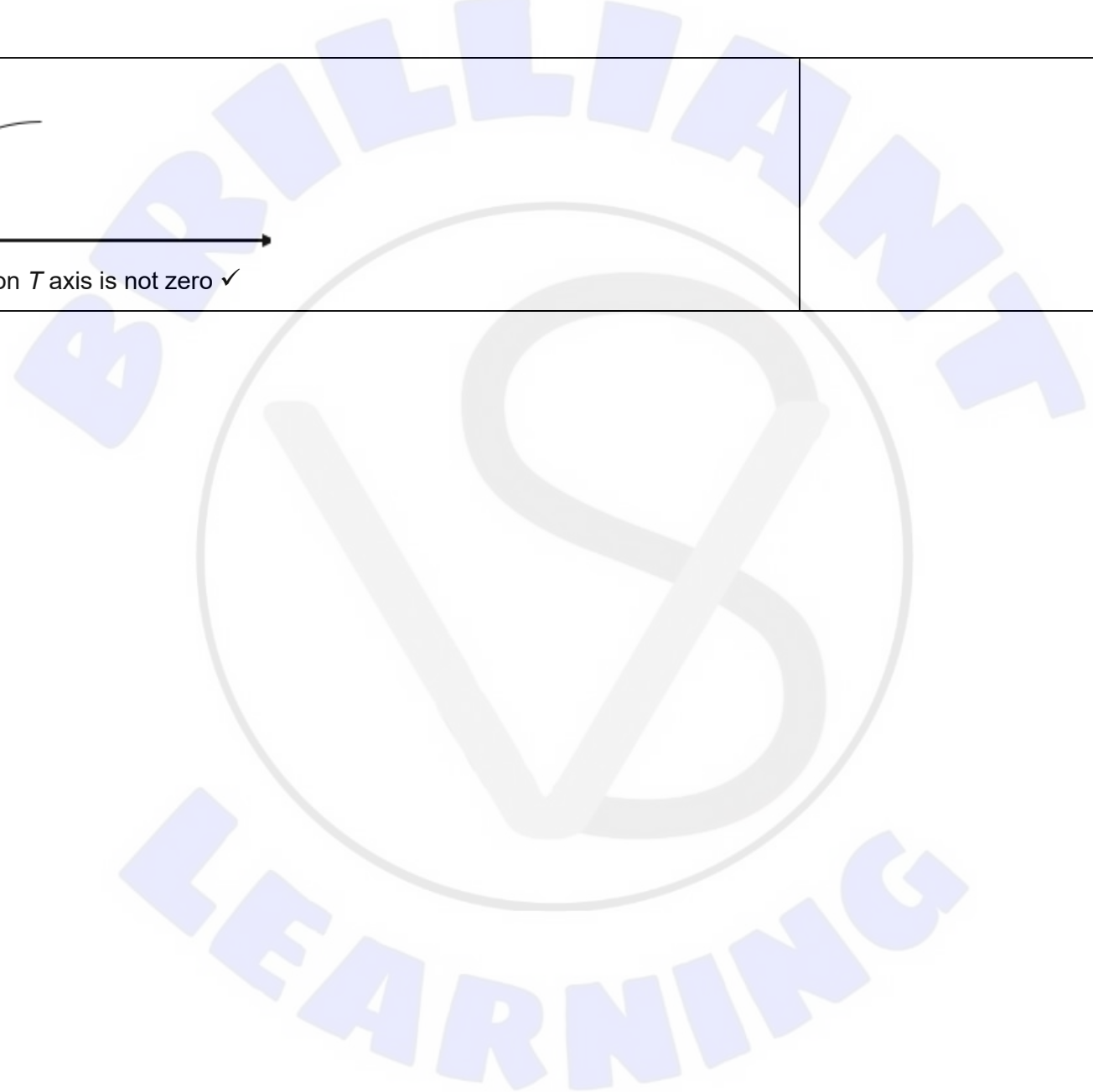
Candidates are required to answer **all** questions in Section A and **all** questions from **one** option in Section B. Maximum total = **35 marks**.

1. Each row in the “Question” column relates to the smallest subpart of the question.
2. The maximum mark for each question subpart is indicated in the “Total” column.
3. Each marking point in the “Answers” column is shown by means of a tick (✓) at the end of the marking point.
4. A question subpart may have more marking points than the total allows. This will be indicated by “**max**” written after the mark in the “Total” column. The related rubric, if necessary, will be outlined in the “Notes” column.
5. An alternative wording is indicated in the “Answers” column by a slash (/). Either wording can be accepted.
6. An alternative answer is indicated in the “Answers” column by “**OR**”. Either answer can be accepted.
7. An alternative markscheme is indicated in the “Answers” column under heading **ALTERNATIVE 1** etc. Either alternative can be accepted.
8. Words inside chevrons « » in the “Answers” column are not necessary to gain the mark.
9. Words that are underlined are essential for the mark.
10. The order of marking points does not have to be as in the “Answers” column, unless stated otherwise in the “Notes” column.
11. If the candidate’s answer has the same “meaning” or can be clearly interpreted as being of equivalent significance, detail and validity as that in the “Answers” column then award the mark. Where this point is considered to be particularly relevant in a question it is emphasized by **OWTTE** (or words to that effect) in the “Notes” column.
12. Remember that many candidates are writing in a second language. Effective communication is more important than grammatical accuracy.
13. Occasionally, a part of a question may require an answer that is required for subsequent marking points. If an error is made in the first marking point then it should be penalized. However, if the incorrect answer is used correctly in subsequent marking points then **follow through** marks should be awarded. When marking, indicate this by adding **ECF** (error carried forward) on the script. “ECF acceptable” will be displayed in the “Notes” column.
14. Do **not** penalize candidates for errors in units or significant figures, **unless** it is specifically referred to in the “Notes” column.

Section A

Question			Answers	Notes	Total
1.	a	i	identifies m as a controlled variable OR recognizes that «the variation of» m affects T OR identifies d as the independent variable OR relationship between d and T could not be found if m changes OR acknowledges that only one variable is to be changed at a time OR highlights the need of the same conditions throughout the experiment ✓	OWTTE.	1
	a	ii	no, as the fit does not go through the origin ✓		1
	a	iii	amplitude/angle of release / use of small angle OR number of oscillations OR any measurable feature of the cable, e.g. length or diameter OR any measurable feature of the rod OR cable holding the rod at its mid-point OR shape of masses ✓	Do not accept same cable/rod/spheres without any other reference. Do not accept any environmental reference as e.g. temperature.	1
	b		«identifies $3.4 = Am$ so» $A = 85$ ✓ unit is $s^2 \text{ kg}^{-1} \text{ m}^{-2}$ ✓	Ignore unit and award [1] max for a final answer of 0.085.	2
	c		correct shape of graph ✓		2

		 <p>intercept on T axis is not zero ✓</p>	
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Question		Answers	Notes	Total
2.	a	uncertainties are small / negligible OR variables can be measured precisely ✓	<i>Award [1] if the answer specifically refers to the specific heat capacity of water as known/constant value.</i>	1
	b	$(25 \pm 1 \text{ so}) 4\% \checkmark$		1
	c	$0.095 \times 4200 \times 25 = 0.025 \times (L + 4200 \times 20) \checkmark$ $L = \frac{0.095 \times 4200 \times 25}{0.025} - 4200 \times 20$ OR $L = 315000 \text{ «Jkg}^{-1}\text{»} \checkmark$	<i>MP2 scores MP1</i> <i>Do not apply ECF from MP1.</i> <i>Answer given, so award MP2 if candidates show a correct full expression for L OR the value with an extra significant figure.</i>	2
	d	$0.064 \times 3.2 \times 10^5 \text{ OR } 0.064 \times 3.15 \times 10^5 \text{ OR } 20480 \text{ OR } 20160\text{»} \checkmark$ $2 \times 10^4 \text{ «Jkg}^{-1}\text{»} \checkmark$	<i>For MP2, accept two significant figures for the answer, i.e. 2.0×10^4</i> <i>For MP2, accept a final answer of 20000.</i> <i>MP2 scores MP1</i>	2
	e	there is more thermal energy/mass/extra term in the L.H.S of the equation/thermal energy provided by the container OR	<i>MP1 can be expressed in a variety of ways.</i>	2

		<p>mass of container has made the final temperature higher/ΔT smaller ✓</p> <p>L should be greater than calculated / is an underestimate ✓</p>	<p><i>Award [1] max if they interpret that the container takes thermal energy, assuming it was at room temperature, regardless of the conclusion</i></p> <p><i>Do not accept MP2 if no reason given.</i></p> <p><i>Do not apply CON and award [1] if conclusion inconsistent with correct MP1</i></p>	
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Section B

Option A — Relativity

Question		Answers	Notes	Total	
3.	a	there is no relative velocity/change in position between Y and the electron OR both move at the same velocity ✓		1	
	b	«electron experiences changing» magnetic field approaching thus creating a «changing» electric field ✓ no magnetic force on a stationary electron ✓ electric force on the electron ✓		2 max	
	c	i	correct use of relativistic addition of velocities formula e.g. $v = \frac{1.8 \times 10^8 - 1.5 \times 10^8}{1 - \frac{1.8 \times 10^8 \times 1.5 \times 10^8}{(3 \times 10^8)^2}} \text{ or } v = \frac{0.6c - 0.5c}{1 - \frac{0.6c \times 0.5c}{c^2}} \checkmark$ $= 0.14c \checkmark$	Award [2] for a BCA Ignore sign for MP2 Do not apply ECF for MP2	2
	c	ii	time/length is no longer absolute/depends on the frame of reference OR speed of light «in vacuum» is constant/ independent of the velocity of the source OR relative velocity between objects cannot be larger than c ✓	1	

Question			Answers	Notes	Total
4.	a		$\gamma = \frac{1}{(1-0.4^2)^{0.5}}$ <p>OR</p> $\gamma = 1.09 \checkmark$ $d = \llcorner 2.0 \times 10^8 / 1.09 \rceil \Rightarrow 1.8 \times 10^8 \llcorner \text{km} \rceil \checkmark$	<p>Allow ECF for MP2</p> <p>Allow BCA</p>	2
	b	i	$c \Delta t = d + v \Delta t, \llcorner \text{so } \Delta t = \frac{d}{c-v} \rceil \checkmark$ $\Delta t = \frac{3 \times 10^9}{0.6 \times 3 \times 10^8} \llcorner \text{s} \rceil$ <p>OR</p> $16.7 \llcorner \text{s} \rceil \checkmark$	<p>Answer of 17 s given, so award MP2 if candidates show a correct full substitution OR the value with an extra significant figure.</p>	2
	b	ii	<p>use of $\Delta t' = \gamma \left(\Delta t - \frac{v \Delta x}{c^2} \right) \checkmark$</p> $\Delta t' = 1.09 \times \left(16.7 - \frac{0.4c \times c \times 16.7}{c^2} \right) = 11 \llcorner \text{s} \rceil \checkmark$	<p>Award [2] for a BCA</p>	2

Question			Answers	Notes	Total
5.	a	i	<p>use of inverse of gradient of ct' axis \checkmark</p> $v = 0.6c \checkmark$	<p>Award [2] for a BCA</p>	2

a	ii	draws axis x' through B and D ✓		1
b		A and D ✓		1
c		line shown parallel to x' ✓ through C ✓	<i>Accept answer C without working for MP2</i>	2
d		shows 45° lines from A and D ✓ that meet on the ct' axis ✓		2

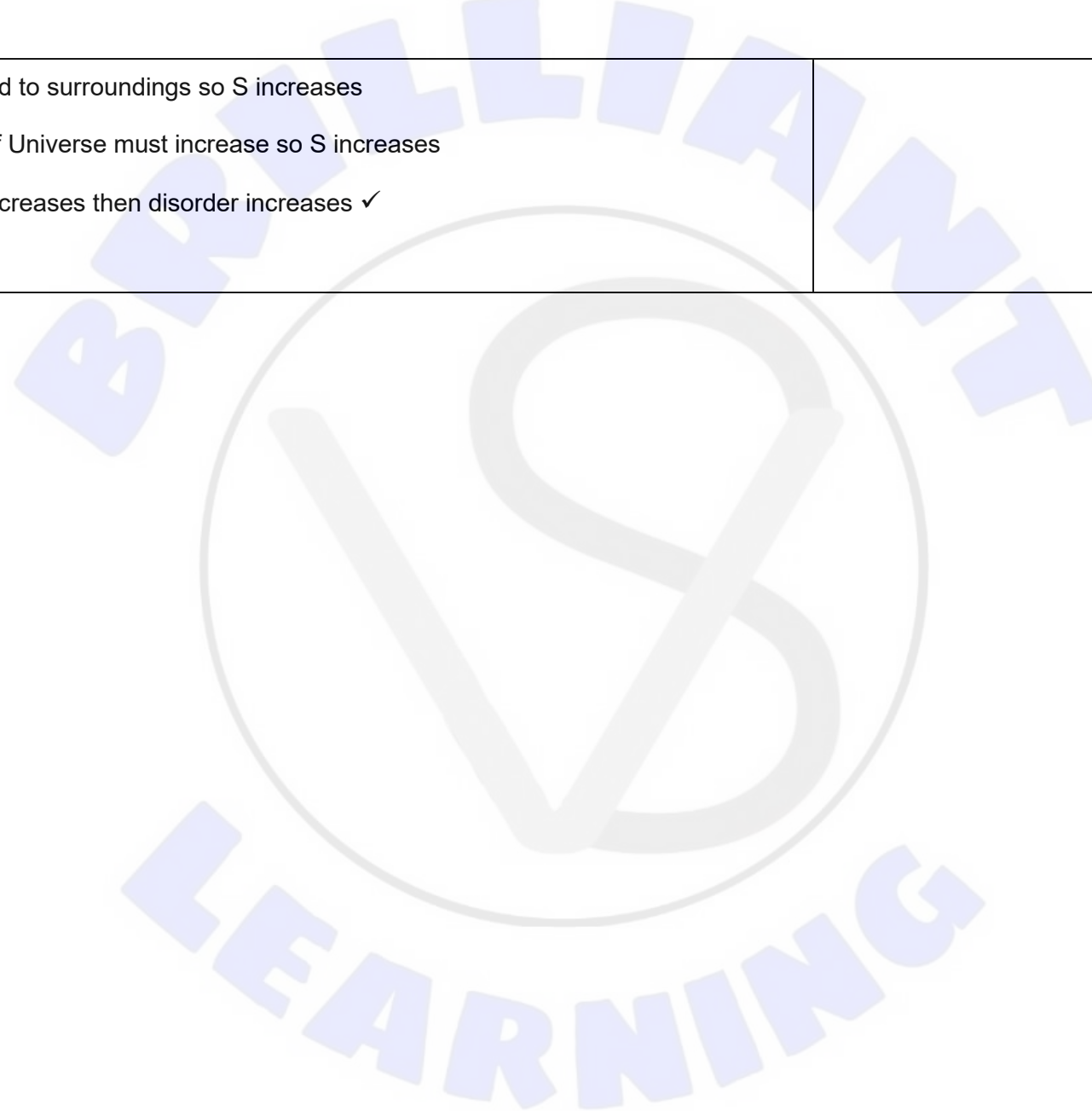
Option B — Engineering physics

Question			Answers	Notes	Total
6.	a	i	quotes $I = \Sigma mr^2$ with $r =$ «perpendicular» distance to axis OR resistance to change in rotation OR ratio of torque «applied» to angular acceleration OR analog to mass in rotational mechanics ✓	<i>In MP1, accept $r =$ radius.</i> <i>In MP2, do not accept resistance to rotation.</i> <i>In MP3 accept the expression as a formula if both symbols identified.</i>	1
	a	ii	Net torque/moment is zero ✓		1
	a	iii	$\frac{1}{12}2M(2L)^2 = \ll \frac{8}{12}ML^2 = \frac{2}{3}ML^2 \gg$ ✓		1
	b		$\frac{2}{3} \times 2.2 \times 0.6^2$ OR $\frac{1}{12} \times 4.4 \times 1.2^2$ OR 0.53 «kg m ² » ✓	<i>Answer of 0.5 kg m² given, so award the mark if candidates show a correct full substitution OR the value with an extra significant figure</i>	1
	c	i	«angular acceleration = $\frac{\text{torque}}{I} = \gg$ »	<i>Allow ECF from MP1</i> <i>Award [2] for a BCA</i>	2

			$\frac{140}{0.53} \quad \text{OR } 264 \text{ «rad/s» } \checkmark$ $t = \frac{\text{angular velocity}}{\text{angular acceleration}} = \frac{750}{264} = 2.8 \text{ «s» } \checkmark$	
c	ii	$\omega^2 = 2\alpha\theta \Rightarrow \theta = \frac{750^2}{2 \times 264}$ <p>OR 1065 «rad»</p> <p>OR $\theta = \frac{\omega}{2} \times t = \frac{750}{2} \times 2.8$</p> <p>OR 1050 «rad» \checkmark</p> $n = \frac{1065}{2\pi} = 170 \checkmark$	<p><i>Follow the calculations as there can be other slight changes in the results, e.g. if they use 2.7 s.</i></p> <p><i>Allow ECF from MP1 and from c) i)</i></p> <p><i>Accept alternative methods through other rotational kinematics equations.</i></p>	2
d		$\alpha = \frac{750}{5} \quad \text{OR } 150 \text{ «rad/s}^2\text{»}$ <p>OR «L = » 0.53 x 750 OR 398 «kg m²/s » \checkmark</p> <p>«torque = 0.53 x 150 =» 80 «Nm»</p> <p>OR « Rate of change in angular momentum =» 398/5 = 80 «Nm» \checkmark</p>	<p><i>Follow the calculations as there can be other slight changes in the results,</i></p> <p><i>Ignore sign of final answer</i></p>	2

Question		Answers	Notes	Total																										
7.	a	$V = \frac{0.007 \times 8.31 \times 200}{120000}$ OR 9.7×10^{-5} «m ³ » ✓	Answer given, so award the mark if candidates show a correct full substitution OR the value with an extra significant figure	1																										
	b	$T = \frac{1.3 \times 10^{-4} \times 200}{9.7 \times 10^{-5}}$ OR $T = \frac{120 \times 10^3 \times 1.3 \times 10^{-4}}{0.007 \times 8.31}$ OR 268 «K» ✓	Accept 260 if 1×10^{-4} used Answer of 270 K given, so award the mark if candidates show a correct full substitution OR the value with an extra significant figure	1																										
	c	uses $PV^{5/3} = \text{constant}$ ✓ $V = 4.9 \times 10^{-5}$ «m ³ » ✓	Accept 4.95 or 5	2																										
	d	i	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Change in Q</th> <th>Change in U</th> <th>W</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A - B</td> <td>+</td> <td>+</td> <td>+</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B - C</td> <td>0</td> <td>+</td> <td>-</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C - D</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D - A</td> <td>0</td> <td>-</td> <td>+</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Change in Q	Change in U	W		A - B	+	+	+	✓	B - C	0	+	-	✓	C - D	-	-	-	✓	D - A	0	-	+	✓	One mark per line	4
	Change in Q	Change in U	W																											
A - B	+	+	+	✓																										
B - C	0	+	-	✓																										
C - D	-	-	-	✓																										
D - A	0	-	+	✓																										
	d	ii	cycle is anticlockwise so work is negative OR work in BCD is larger than work in DAB OR work is negative so Q is negative/released «as $\Delta U = 0$ » ✓	1																										

	e	Q released to surroundings so S increases OR entropy of Universe must increase so S increases OR since S increases then disorder increases ✓		1
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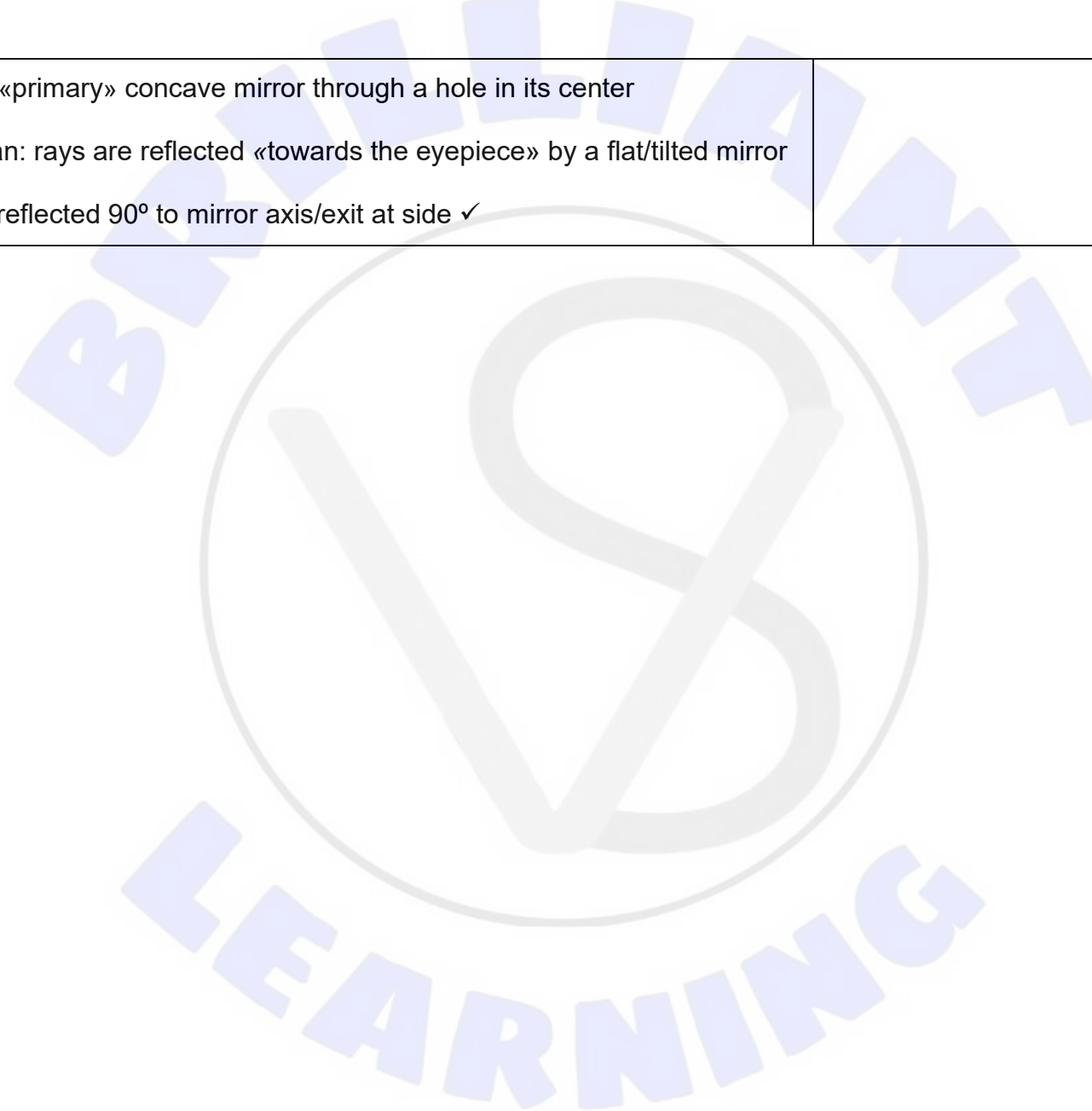
Option C — Imaging

Question			Answers	Notes	Total
8.	a	i	<p>«for the image to be smaller in a converging lens it must be inverted so»</p> $\left\langle M = \frac{h_i}{h_o} = - \right\rangle \frac{v}{u} = \left\langle - \right\rangle \frac{1}{2}$ <p>OR</p> $\frac{1}{f} = \frac{1}{u} + \frac{2}{u} \checkmark$ $u = 3f \checkmark$	<p>MP1 for $v = \frac{u}{2}$ or its use in the lens equation.</p> <p>MP2 scores MP1</p>	2
	a	ii	<p>one ray correct with object further than $2f \checkmark$</p> <p>second ray drawn and image found smaller and inverted \checkmark</p>		2
	b	i	<p>erect OR virtual OR diminished OR image always on the same side as the object OR</p>	<p>Award [0] if more than one feature stated and any one is wrong.</p>	1

			v smaller than f OR v smaller than u ✓	
b	ii	$\llcorner M = \gg \frac{1}{2} = -\frac{v}{u}$ <p>OR</p> $v = \frac{-u}{2} \quad \checkmark$ $\llcorner - \gg \frac{1}{5} = \frac{1}{u} - \frac{2}{u}$ <p>OR</p> $\llcorner - \gg \frac{1}{f} = \frac{1}{u} - \frac{2}{u}$ <p>OR</p> <p>u = 5 «cm»</p> <p>OR</p> <p>u = f ✓</p>	<p><i>Ignore sign for MP2</i></p> <p><i>u = 5 scores MP2 only if MP1 scored.</i></p> <p><i>Answer is given in the question so check working carefully.</i></p>	2
b	iii	object at the focus, one ray correctly diverged ✓ another ray and image found of half the height ✓		2
c		new ray drawn towards the intermediate image through centre of diverging lens		2

Question		Answers	Notes	Total	
9.	a	<p>M «= angular magnification» = $\frac{0.34}{\theta_{moon}}$ OR $\frac{0.34}{\frac{3500}{380000}}$</p> <p>OR</p> <p>M = 37 ✓</p> <p>« = M = $\frac{f_o}{f_e} = \frac{1100}{f_e} = 37$ so » $f_e = 30$ «mm» ✓</p>	Allow ECF for MP2	2	
	b	i	<p>have increased our ability to collect information of «celestial» objects</p> <p>OR</p> <p>detect «celestial» objects not visible «to the naked eye»</p> <p>OR</p> <p>allow for the analysis of light/radiation to determine distance/luminosity/temperature/velocity/structure of «celestial» objects</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Mention of any large astronomical reflecting telescope, e.g. Hubble/James Webb/Planck/WMAP ✓</p>	<p>For MP1, MP2 and MP3 accept the reference to any specific celestial object</p> <p>For MP4 accept an example of a telescope working on any wavelength.</p> <p>Accept other sensible answers</p>	1
	b	ii	<p>there is dispersion / chromatic aberration at the lenses in refracting telescope</p> <p>OR</p> <p>there is no dispersion/chromatic aberration at the mirror</p> <p>OR</p> <p>there is only dispersion/chromatic aberration at eyepiece of reflecting telescope</p> <p>OR</p> <p>no refraction in mirror telescopes ✓</p>		1
	b	iii	<p>Cassegrain: rays are reflected «towards the eyepiece» by a convex mirror</p> <p>OR</p> <p>rays are axial to mirror/exit along mirror axis</p> <p>OR</p>	Allow a sketch which illustrates either telescope.	1

			rays exit «primary» concave mirror through a hole in its center OR Newtonian: rays are reflected «towards the eyepiece» by a flat/tilted mirror OR rays are reflected 90° to mirror axis/exit at side ✓	
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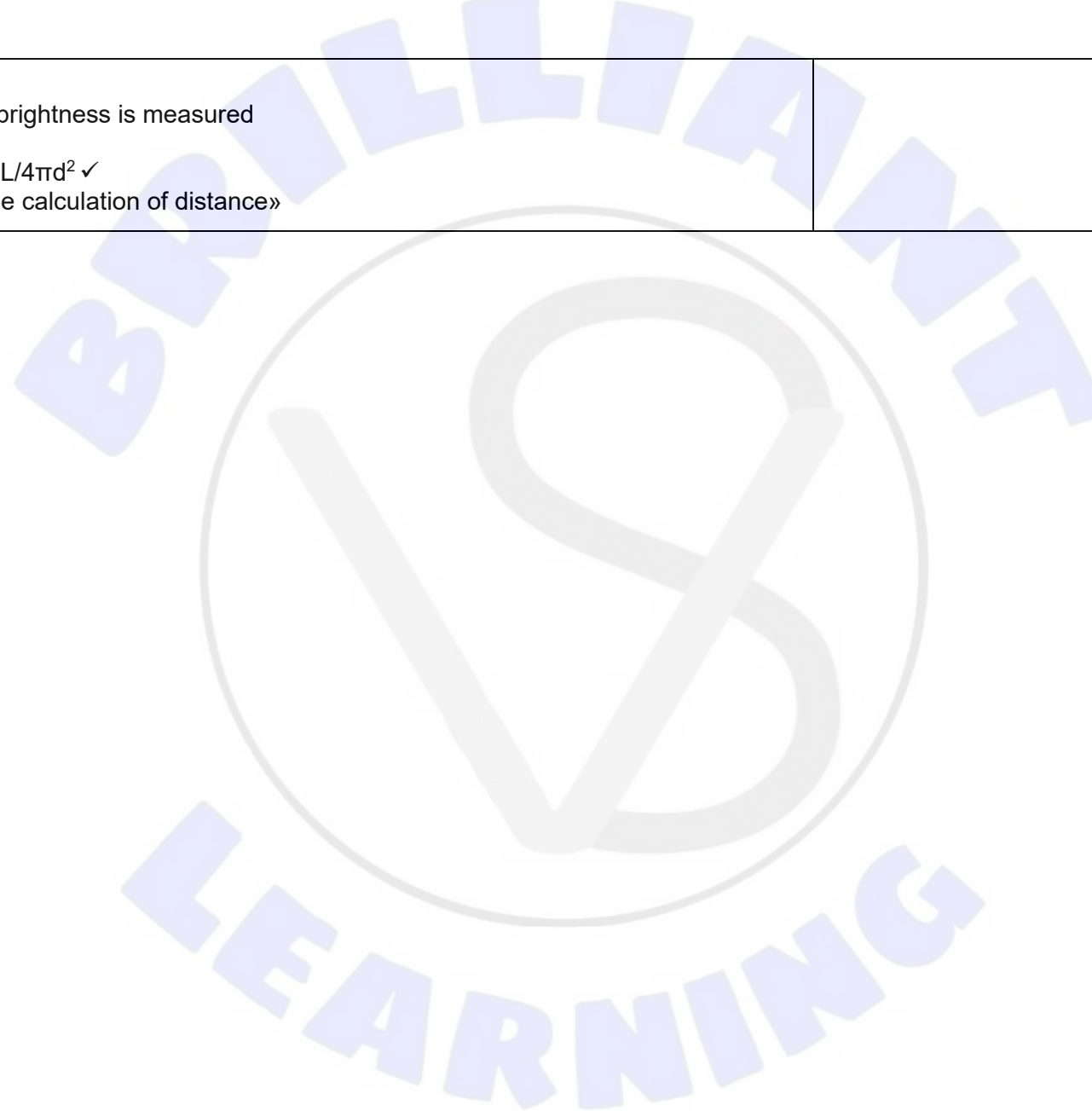
Question		Answers	Notes	Total
10.	a	refractive index/velocity varies with wavelength OR wavelengths/colors arrive at different times OR mentions pulse broadening or chromatic dispersion ✓	Allow reference to change in critical angle so increased refractive losses	1
	b	uses transit time $\ll = \frac{d}{\left(\frac{c}{n}\right)} \gg$ ✓ $t = \frac{10\,000(1.45298 - 1.45264)}{3 \times 10^8} = 11 \text{ ns}$ OR $t = 10000 \times 1.45298 / 3 \times 10^8 = 4.84327 \times 10^{-5}$ OR $t = 10000 \times 1.45264 / 3 \times 10^8 = 4.84213 \times 10^{-5}$ ✓ 11 ns + 1 ns = 12 «ns» ✓		3

Option D — Astrophysics

Question		Answers	Notes	Total
11.	a	mention of spectrum/spectral lines ✓ lines/wavelengths/transitions are specific for an element ✓	OWTTE	2
	b	502 «nm» ✓	Accept 501 or 500 5.02 x 10 ⁻⁷ scores [1] if unit (m) stated.	1
	c	(most) orbits of planets are nearly circular/slightly elliptical OR orbits of comets highly/more elliptical ✓	OWTTE	1

Question		Answers	Notes	Total	
12.	a	addition of Alpha Centauri B to the luminosity/brightness of the binary star system OR combined luminosity/brightness of the binary stars ✓	OWTTE	1	
	b	i	$d = \frac{1}{0.76} \text{ OR } 1.3 \text{ «pc» } \checkmark$ $d = \frac{3.26 \times 9.46 \times 10^{15}}{0.76} \text{ OR } d = 4.1 \times 10^{16} \text{ «m» } \checkmark$	MP2 scores MP1. Answer given, so award MP2 if candidates show a correct full substitution OR the value with an extra significant figure	2
	b	ii	$\llbracket b = \frac{5.7 \times 10^{26}}{4\pi(4.1 \times 10^{16})^2} \Rightarrow 2.7 \times 10^{-8} \text{ «W/m» } \checkmark$	Accept use of 4×10^{16}	1
	b	iii	Use of $L = M^{3.5} \checkmark$ $M = \left(\frac{5.7}{3.8}\right)^{\frac{1}{3.5}} M_{\odot} \text{ OR } M = 1.12 M_{\odot} \checkmark$	Answer given, so award MP2 if candidates show a correct full substitution OR the value with an extra significant figure	2
	c	i	position of A correct (just above and to the left of the Sun) ✓	Allow a position from the Sun up to the second drawn star to its left.	1
	c	ii	loop via red giants to white dwarves OR line towards red giants, then white dwarves ✓ red giants and white dwarves' approximate regions labelled ✓	Allow areas on the upper right-hand and lower left-hand region.	2
	d		Cepheid variable stars have luminosity that varies «with time» OR luminosity of a Cepheid is determined from its «brightness» period ✓	Accept $T = f(L)$ OWTTE	2

			apparent brightness is measured OR use of $b = L/4\pi d^2$ ✓ «allows the calculation of distance»		
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Question		Answers	Notes	Total
13.	a	isotropic/uniform/homogeneous/appears to come from everywhere ✓ tiny fluctuations «in temperature» ✓ black body radiation «spectrum» ✓ «radiation of a body at» 3 K/2.7(6)K ✓ «radiation with a» wavelength of 2 mm ✓	OWTTE	1 max
	b	Big Bang model predicted the existence of CMB radiation ✓ «discovery of» CMB radiation provides evidence for the BB model ✓ CMB radiation left by the BB/originated when Universe was hot/small ✓ wavelength increased/T decreased as Universe expanded/cooled down ✓		2 max

Question		Answers	Notes	Total
14.		$\frac{R}{R_0} = z + 1 = 8.5. \checkmark$ $R_0 = \frac{1}{8.5} R$ OR 0.118 OR 11.8% ✓	Allow reverse argument, from 12% to a z value of 7.33 Answer 12% given, so award MP2 if candidates show a correct full substitution OR the value with an extra significant figure	2